

Exploring North Carolina: History of Libraries, Archives, Museums and Special Collections ^[1]

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Photograph of the Durham County Public Library, ca. 1900. From the collection of the Durham County Library.

^[2]North Carolina has a long history in the development of libraries, archives and special historical and museum collections and in raising many notable individuals who influenced education and historical collecting in their roles as librarians, archivists, and curators, including [R.D.W. Connor](#) ^[3] who became the first Archivist of the United States in 1934.

This collection brings together some of the most notable moments and influencers in the history of libraries, archives, museums and special collections in North Carolina.

NCpedia articles about influential and notable librarians, archivists and curators

[Helen Marjorie Beal](#) ^[4] (member of the Library Commission, led expansion of county service)

[Joseph Penn Breedlove](#) ^[5] (2nd full-time librarian of Trinity College)

[Carrie Broughton](#) ^[6] (library leader and 4th State Librarian)

[Herbert Hutchinson Brimley](#) ^[7] (1st curator, then director, of the [State Museum](#) ^[8], now the Museum of Natural Sciences)

[R.D.W. Connor](#) ^[3] (1st Archivist of the United States)

[Charles Christopher Crittenden](#) ^[9] (Secretary of the NC Historical Commission)

[David Leroy Corbitt](#) ^[10] (Head of Publications of the NC Historical Commission)

[Adelaide Lisetta Fries](#) ^[11] (Archivist of the Moravian church and genealogist)

[Lillian Baker Griggs](#) ^[12] (pioneering professionally trained librarian and leader in expanding rural service in Durham Co.)

[Marshall De Lancey Haywood](#) ^[13] (historian, author, NC Supreme Court Librarian)

[Robert Lee Humber](#) ^[14] (Chairman of the State Art Commission, led effort to found the [NCMA](#) ^[15])

[Nellie Rowe Jones](#) ^[16] (early Guilford Co. library leader, expanded rural and bookmobile service)

[Henry Mauger London](#) ^[17] (NC Legislative Librarian, drafted more than 5,000 bills)

[Albert Ray Newsome](#) ^[18] (Secretary of the NC Historical Commission)

[William Hayes Owen](#) ^[19] (early UNC University Librarian)

[Myrtle Peele: book dreams](#) ^[20] (Book mobile librarian)
[Annie Florence Petty](#) ^[21] (1st professionally trained librarian in NC, leader in library development)
[William S. Powell](#) ^[22] (public historian and librarian who expanded UNC's NC Collection)
[James Fauntleroy Taylor](#) ^[23] (1st person to manage the State Library full-time)
[Mary Lyndsay Thornton](#) ^[24] (1st librarian of the NC Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill)
[Margaret Ridley Long Tyler](#) ^[25] (Bertie Co. Public Schools librarian and preservationist)
[William Valentiner](#) ^[26] (1st Director of the NC Museum of Art)
[Charles Whedbee](#) ^[27] (led effort for 1941 Public Library Service Fund)
[Louis Round Wilson](#) ^[28] (leader in professional education for librarians; founder of the NCLA)
[Benjamin Wyche](#) ^[29] (1st full-time trained librarian at UNC-Chapel Hill)
[Charles Whitson Stanford, Jr.](#) ^[30] (Director of the NC Museum of History, developed gallery for the blind)

NCpedia articles about libraries, archives, museums and special collections

[Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library](#) ^[31]
[Carnegie Libraries](#) ^[32]
[Historical Collections](#) ^[33]
[Indian Museum of the Carolinas](#) ^[34]
[Levine Museum of the New South](#) ^[35]
[Museum of Early Southern Decorative Art](#) ^[36]
[Museum of the Cherokee Indian](#) ^[37]
[North Carolina Museum of Art \(NCMA\)](#) ^[15]
[State Art Society](#) ^[38] (precursor to the Museum of Art)
[North Carolina Museum of History](#) ^[39]
[North Carolina Museum of Life and Science](#) ^[40]
[North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences](#) ^[8]
[North Carolina Office of Archives and History](#) ^[41]
[North Carolina Transportation Museum](#) ^[42]
[Public Libraries](#) ^[43]
[Southern Folklife Collection](#) ^[44]
[State Library of North Carolina: People, Places, Milestones \(includes list of State Librarians\)](#) ^[45]
[State Library of North Carolina](#) ^[46]

Explore North Carolina's library and archives special collections online

Public Library Collections Online

[Digital Forsyth](#) ^[47], Forsyth County Public Library
[New Hanover County Public Library Digital Archives](#) ^[48]
[Pack Memorial Library North Carolina Room](#) ^[49], Buncombe County
[Public Library Digital Collections](#) ^[50], NC Digital Heritage Center
[Robinson-Spanger Carolina Room](#) ^[51], Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library

North Carolina Library History Collection Online

[Library History Collection, North Carolina Digital Collections](#) ^[52]

University Library Collections Online

[Appalachian State University Library Digital Collections](#) ^[53]
[Duke University Libraries Digital Collections](#) ^[54]
[East Carolina University Digital Collections](#) ^[55]
[North Carolina A&T State University Digital Collections](#) ^[56]
[North Carolina Postcards](#) ^[57], North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill
[NC State University Libraries Digital Collections & Publications](#) ^[58]
[UNC-Greensboro Digital Collections](#) ^[59]
[UNC-Charlotte J. Murrey Atkins Library Digital Collections](#) ^[60]

Special Libraries, Archives, Museums and Historical Collections Online

[Bienenstock Furniture Library](#)^[63], High Pointe, North Carolina
[Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts](#)^[64], Winston-Salem, North Carolina
[North Carolina Digital Collections](#)^[65], State Library and State Archives
[North Carolina Digital Heritage Center](#)^[66] (local history, public library, newspapers, and historical collections)
[North Carolina Museum of History Collections](#)^[67]

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Durham County Public Library. Photograph. ca. 1900. Durham Historic Photographic Archives, Durham County Library. https://dur.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/search/asset/1003966/0^[2]

Subjects:

[Libraries and Archives](#)^[68]

Authors:

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- [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/fries-adelaide>
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- [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/humber-robert-lee>
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- [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/london-henry-mauger>
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- [30] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/stanford-charles-whitson>
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- [32] <https://www.ncpedia.org/carnegie-libraries>
- [33] <https://www.ncpedia.org/historical-collections>
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- [43] <https://www.ncpedia.org/public-libraries>

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- [46] <https://www.ncpedia.org/library-state>
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- [48] <https://cdm16072.contentdm.oclc.org/>
- [49] <https://ncroom.buncombecounty.org/Presto/home/home.aspx>
- [50] <https://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/>
- [51] <https://www.cmlibrary.org/services/genealogy-history-services>
- [52] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/custom/library-history>
- [53] <https://omeka.library.appstate.edu/>
- [54] <https://repository.duke.edu/dc>
- [55] <https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/>
- [56] <http://www.library.ncat.edu/resources/digital.html>
- [57] https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/nc_post
- [58] <https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/digitalcollections>
- [59] <http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/>
- [60] <https://library.charlotte.edu/archives-rare-books/archival-collections/digital-collections>
- [61] <https://digitalcollections.uncw.edu/>
- [62] <https://library.unc.edu/wilson/digital-collections/>
- [63] <https://www.furniturelibrary.com/inside-bfl/our-collection/>
- [64] <https://mesda.org/collections/mesda-collection/>
- [65] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>
- [66] <https://www.digitalnc.org/>
- [67] <https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/collections>
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